

'laxness' or 'compactness' of structure of the group under consideration, since, as among mammals for example, differences that in one group (as in the Pinnipedia) are looked upon as merely specific, or at most subgeneric, would in other groups be considered of generic or of perhaps even higher importance. Hence among the Passeres we are hardly to look for, and much less to demand, as the basis for families such differences as we meet with among the lower orders of the class Aves.

Mr. Lucas's paper is an important contribution to the subject under discussion, which treats not only of the affinities of the Cœrebidæ, but also of such equivocal forms as the genera *Certhidea*, *Myadestes*, *Phœornis*, and *Phainopepla*.—J. A. A.

**Rhoads's Reprint of Ord's North American Zoölogy.**<sup>1</sup>—Mr. Rhoads has done good service through his reprint of George Ord's North American Zoölogy, of which for many years not a copy appears to have been anywhere accessible, either in this country or abroad. Formerly a mutilated copy existed in the library of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, but later it disappeared. The perfect copy from which Mr. Rhoads's reprint is made was discovered by him in the private library of Dr. J. S. Cohen of Philadelphia, who kindly placed it at Mr. Rhoads's service.

The importance of Ord's 'Zoölogy' results from the fact that in this work a number of new North American animals were for the first time here named, principally mammals. Of the eight new names which Ord (in this work) appears to have given to birds, only four<sup>2</sup> prove tenable, and these were long since duly incorporated into the nomenclature of North American ornithology. Ord's list of bird names was compiled, as Mr. Rhoads duly states, chiefly from Turton's edition of Linnæus's 'Systema Naturæ,' published in 1807, with the addition of the species described by Alexander Wilson. Although purporting to relate to "North America," many European and a larger number of South American species are included. The list proper (pp. 315-319) consists of

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<sup>1</sup> A Reprint | of the | North American Zoology, | by | George Ord. | Being an exact reproduction of the part originally compiled | by Mr. Ord for Johnson and Warner, and first | published by them in their | Second American Edition | of | Guthrie's Geography, | in | 1815. | — | Taken from Mr. Ord's private, annotated Copy. | To which is added an Appendix on the more important | scientific and historic Questions [sic] involved. | By | Samuel N. Rhoads. | — | Published by the Editor. | Haddonfield, New Jersey. | 1894.—8vo., pp. x (= introduction), 290-361 (= reprint), 1-90 (= appendix).

<sup>2</sup> *Phasianus columbianus* = *Pediocetes phasianellus columbianus* (Ord); *Sterna philadelphia* = *Larus philadelphia* (Ord); *Larus delawarensis* = *Larus delawarensis* Ord; *Anas columbianus* = *Olor columbianus* (Ord).

merely the common and technical names of the birds, but it is followed by "a succinct account of some of the most interesting birds of the United States, for which," says Mr. Ord, "we are chiefly indebted to Mr. Wilson's Work." This occupies pp. 320-357. Two of the new species (*Sterna philadelphia* and *Larus delawarensis*) are described in footnotes to the list; for descriptions of the others the reader is given a footnote reference to the "History of Lewis and Clark's Expedition."

Mr. Rhoads's annotations to the bird part of Ord's work occupy pp. 31-51 of his Appendix, and consist mainly of a statement of the equivalent current name of Ord's species, so far as they are certainly identifiable, with appropriate explanatory comment, particularly in the case of the North American species.

It is a great satisfaction to have a faithful transcript of this rare work placed within reach, although the interest that has centered about it is far greater than its importance, so far as its bird matter is concerned, would really warrant. It is somewhat different with the mammals, in which the chief importance of Ord's work, from a nomenclatural point of view, consists.

While we are very grateful to Mr. Rhoads for his reprint of Ord's 'Zoölogy,' we can hardly speak of the execution of his task as wholly above criticism. The ideal method of reproduction would have been of course by photography, so often resorted to in these days for the reproduction of letter-press. We trust that Mr. Rhoads has exercised the care in proof-reading the importance of the case required, but his own considerable array of typographical errors in the reprint, as well as in his own part of the work (see Errata, p. 51 of App.), leads us the more to regret that the text of Ord's work could not have been reproduced in facsimile; and especially when we note the large number of still uncorrected typographical errors (to say nothing of the idiosyncracies of punctuation) in his own text. In all probability, however, the errors, if any, in the reprint are not of material importance. — J. A. A.

Reichenow's Birds of German East Africa.<sup>1</sup>—This work forms part two of Volume III of the great work now publishing in seven volumes entitled 'Deutsch-Ost-afrikas,' being the bird part of the volume devoted to the vertebrates of East Africa. It is in the form of a handbook or manual, treating of 728 species, giving a brief diagnosis of each, with generally a short account of their habits and distribution. Analyti-

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<sup>1</sup> Die Vögel Deutsch-Ost-afrikas. | — | Von | Dr. Ant. Reichenow. | . . . .  
[ = 4 lines, titles, etc. ] | — | Mit über 100 in den Text gedruckten, schwarzen  
und farbigen Abbildungen | nach der Natur gezeichnet von | Anna Held. | —  
| 1894. | Geographische Verlagshandlung Dietrich Reimer. Berlin. |  
(Hoefler & Vohsen.) Roy. 8vo., pp. 250 + 3 ll. 108 illust. in text, part  
colored.